

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Boucher Votes for Ban on Cell Phone Use While Driving**



#### *She Notes the Legislation is Still Far from Enactment*

State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143<sup>rd</sup>, Wilton, Norwalk, voted in favor of legislation to prohibit the use of hand held cell phones while driving an automobile, but she noted the bill was poorly drafted, needs correcting and must also gain approval in the state Senate.

The state House of Representatives approved the bill that would allow drivers to place and answer calls, but they would have to pull off the road or use hands free devices to carry on a phone conversation. Drivers under 18 would be banned from using any types of cell phones while driving. Violators would face a \$100 fine.

“When I first arrived in the legislature, this was one of the first bills proposed,” said Rep. Boucher. “Now, after numerous attempts, it is before us again. I believe it is sorely needed and will help keep drivers more focused on the road ahead.”

Rep. Boucher noted that the bill contains confusing language that also would ban other activity while driving and needs to be corrected. For example, she said it could be interpreted to prohibit using a car radio or compact disc player.

“This is a very difficult bill to enforce as it is written,” added Rep. Boucher. “Constituents have often inquired about banning cell phones, as they often encounter problems on the road with drivers distracted by their cell phones.”

Rep. Boucher said she hopes the bill is simplified, corrected and signed into law.